



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 5, 2007**

#07-136

**ANCHORAGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT
TO DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, October 5, 2007, that Estephen D. Pebenito, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to two charges of distribution of a controlled substance.

Pebenito, age 32, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with two counts of distribution of crack cocaine before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that Pebenito sold 12.2 grams of crack cocaine to an informant working for the government on October 31, 2006. On February 6, 2007, Pebenito sold that same informant 5.4 grams of crack.

Judge Burgess scheduled sentencing for December 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 to 40 years in prison, a fine of 2 million dollars, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Pebenito continues to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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